Age Differences

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

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ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:

AGE DIFFERENCES WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON PERSONS AGED 85+

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SUMMARY

This paper focuses on the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed for the USCO study: the respondents who are 85 years of age and older. The meaningful characteristics of these persons have been isolated through a comparison of their experiences with the experiences of persons aged 62 to 74 and persons aged 75 to 84. The findings revealed that the three groups differed in terms of their demographic characteristics, their living situation and their preferences.

Within the population surveyed, 60% of the respondents fell between the ages of 62-74; 33% were aged 75 to 84 and seven percent were aged 85+ and over. The rural areas housed the largest concentration of the oldest respondents. The smallest concentration of the most elderly group was found in Sault Ste. Marie. The respondents in the 85+ group were characterized by the fact that they were more likely than the respondents in the other groups to be widowed, to fall into the lowest income category (less than $600 per month),[1] to have less than nine years of schooling, to be unemployed, to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to reside alone.

The social contacts maintained by the respondents were examined in relation to age group differences. No differences across age were found in the number of respondents who had contact with family. With respect to frequency of contact with family, the respondents aged 85+ were in phone contact with family and were visited by family as frequently as the respondents in the other age groups. However, their visits to family were less frequent. Contacts with friends differed significantly across age groups. With increasing age, the respondents visited friends less frequently and had less frequent phone contact with them.

The recreational participation of the respondents also varied by age. As the respondents grew older, they participated in fewer activities. The respondents aged 85+ were less likely than the younger respondents to work in the garden, participate in clubs, attend the theatre, go to sports events, phone friends, visit family, visit friends, participate in sports, play cards, do volunteer work, help out at election time, travel and entertain. With increasing age, the respondents were more likely to report that health, transportation, being too old and the absence of companions kept them from participating in the recreational activities to the extent they desired.

The health status of the respondents was determined on the basis of self-reports. Seven measures of health status were used. The respondents aged 85+ were found to differ from the younger respondents by the fact that they were more likely to perceive their health as fair or poor, report a deterioration in their health over a five year period, report that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities, and have restricted mobility.

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[1] On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

The respondents who were aged 85+ used the health care system more frequently than those in the other age groups. They made more visits to family doctors and had a greater likelihood of being hospitalized. Once hospitalized, the respondents aged 85+ remained in the hospital for a longer period of time. Stays in hospital of eight or more days were common to ten percent of the respondents aged 62 and 74 compared to fourteen percent of the respondents aged 85+.

Many of the respondents aged 85+ had difficulty carrying out basic Activities of Daily Living (ADLS). In this survey, nine ADLS were assessed. They included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. For each, increasing age was associated with a greater likelihood of reporting difficulty with or an inability (disability) to carry out the activity.

Just as the respondents aged 85+ were more likely to report disabilities; they were also more likley to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities. Seventy-nine percent received assistance with at least one activity. Thirty-nine percent had help with five or more activities.

The sources of assistance used by the respondents were documented and significant differences were delineated across age groups. Whereas, the respondents in the younger age groups received the most significant proportion of assistance from children, the respondents in the 85+ age group received the largest proportion of help from family other than children and spouses. The persons aged 85+ were more likely to be in receipt of assistance from community agencies.

Information was obtained on the type of housing arrangements the respondents would be interested in should they be unable to care for their own needs. The respondents aged 85+ expressed most interest (62%) in staying home with the assistance of community services. The most popular housing option indicated by the respondents in the younger age groups was moving into a supportive housing arrangement. It is noteworthy that as the respondents grew older, they were more likely to express an interest in moving in with family.

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated with those modes were delineated in this survey. The modes used differed by age. The largest proportion (a minimum of 39%) of the respondents aged 85+ were driven by relatives when going shopping, to medical appointments, and to social occasions. In contrast, the most significant proportion (a minimum of 30%) of the respondents in the younger age groups drove themselves to the activities. As the respondents aged, they were more likely to walk to the activities, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouses and more likely to be driven by relatives. No statistically significant differences were found across age groups in the number of respondents who reported problems getting to the activities.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population surveyed: the persons who are 85 years of age and over. Gerontological research has amply demonstrated that once persons reach the age of 65 they cannot be easily grouped together and studied as a whole. With an age range that can span thirty to forty years beginning at the age of 65, the differences between the persons at either end of the spectrum can be considerable. The interests, the lifestyles and the requirements for assistance can vary dramatically.

The goal of this paper is to explore the living situation of persons who are 85 years of age and over and to determine their special requirements. In exploring the living situation of these individuals, consideration is being given to their demographic characteristics, their health status, their use of the health care system, their social contacts, their recreational participation, their receipt of assistance, their requests for additional assistance, their interest in various housing options and their use of transportation.

The characteristics of the persons aged 85+ are isolated through a comparison of their experiences with the experiences of persons aged 62 to 74 and persons aged 75 to 84. These groups were chosen for comparison in view of the results of preliminary data analyses which found these groups to have exceptionally distinct characteristics.

This paper concentrates on the differences among the three age groups. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in previous papers; each covering a specific topic. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references and any further comparisons of the data.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for a list of other papers in USCO series.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

This section reviews the demographic characteristics of the persons in the three age groups. Consideration is given to their community of residence, sex, marital status, income, education, employment status, and housing.

In the population surveyed sixty percent (n=503) of the respondents fell between the ages of 62 and 74, 33% (n=276) were aged 75 to 84 and seven percent (n=64) were aged 85 and over. Table 1 shows that the age distribution of the population differed across communities. The proportion of respondents in the youngest group (62-74) ranged from a low of 55% in the rural areas (n=93) and Pentanguishene (n=55) to a high of 64% (n=168) in Toronto. The rural areas housed the largest concentration (12%, n=19) of persons aged 85+. The smallest proportion of persons 65 and over was found in Sault Ste. Marie (5%, n=6).

Overall, the sample included 42% (n=353) men and 58% (n=481) women. No statistically significant differences were found in the age distribution of the sexes. Women comprised 56% (n=278) of the 62 to 74 age group and 65% (n=41) of the 85+ group.

The youngest age group (62-74) was made up largely of married respondents (66%, n=333). The middle group (75-84) was comprised of an equal proportion (46%, n= 125, n=126, respectively) of married and widowed individuals. The oldest group (85+) was predominantly widowed (68%, n=43). Refer to Table 2.

Lower incomes were associated with increased age. Table 3 shows that the lowest income group (below $600/month) was made up of 18% (n=84) of the persons 62-74 and fully 54% (n=29) of the persons aged 85+[1]. THe highest income group ($1,000+), on the other hand, was composed of close to one-half (49%, n=230) of the persons 62-74 compared to less than one-fifth of the persons 85 and over.

Advanced age was related to fewer years of formal education. Table 4 reveals that over one-fifth (56%, n=35) of the 85+ group had less than nine years of schooling. This figure compares to 37% (n=180) of the group aged 62-74. Persons who had thirteen or more years of education included close to one-fifth (19%, n=93) of the 62-74 age group and 13% (n=8) of the 85+ group.

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1 On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

Eleven percent (n=57) of the youngest group (62-74) were employed. Among the oldest respondents, three percent (n=2) were gainfully employed. See Table 5.

Tables 6, 7 and 8 illustrate that the housing situation of the respondents varied across age groups. As the respondents grew older, they were more likely to rent their housing. The respondents in the middle group (aged 75-84) had the greatest tendency to reside in houses and to reside alone.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

Visits with family and friends by telephone and in person were the basis for assessing the respondents' social contacts. This section examines the frequency of these contacts.

Almost all (99%, n=835) of the respondents maintained contact with at least one family member. Eighty-two percent (n=687) had contact with at least one child. No significant differences were found across age groups in the proportion of respondents who maintained these contacts.

Age did not differentiate among groups in the frequency of phone contacts maintained with family or the frequency of visits from family. However, the frequency of visits to family did differ by age. With advancing age, the respondents visited family less often. Fifty-two percent (n=31) of the respondents aged 85+ visited family less than once per month. This figure compares to 31% (n=154) of the respondents aged 62-74. Refer to Table 9.

The frequency of contact with friends varied considerably more among age groups than the frequency of contact with family. Increased age was accompanied by less frequent phone contact and less frequent visits to friends. Table 10 illustrates that close to one-third (31%, n=19) of the respondents aged 85+ were in phone contact with friends less than once per month. The corresponding percentage for respondents aged 62 to 74 was twelve (n=62). Table 11 shows that 38% point difference between the youngest and oldest age groups in the number of respondents who visited friends less than once per month (27%, n=138, of the 62-74 age group) (65%, n=39 of the 85+ age group). The frequency with which friends visited respondents did not vary by age.

4. RECREATION

Participation in recreational activities was examined in this survey. This section explores the recreational participation of the respondents and examines the relationship of age to participation.

The respondents were read a list of 21 activities and were asked about the extent of their participation in each activity. The activities included solitary activities such as handicrafts, group activities like club participation, activities requiring minimal output of energy like reading and activities requiring greater output like sports. The respondents' participation ranged from one to twenty activities with a mean of twelve. Twenty-eight percent (n=233) of the sample participated in a maximum of ten activities, 21% (n=178) were involved in eleven to twelve activities, 23% (n=199) participated in thirteen to fourteen activities and 28% (n=236) participated in fifteen or more activities.

As the respondents grew in age, they participated in fewer activities. Table 12 shows that 21% (n=107) of persons in the 62 to 74 age group participated in a maximum of ten activities this figure compares to 52% (n=34) of the 85+ group. Participation in fifteen or more activities on the other hand, was common to 36% (n=178) of the group aged 62-74 compared to thirteen percent (n=8) of the persons aged 85+

With respect to eight of the 21 activities examined, no differences in participation were identified across age groups. These activities included taking walks, going for drives, attending church, participating in hobbies, reading, phoning family, visiting family and receiving visits from friends.

Differences in participation across age groups were found in relation to the remaining thirteen activities, namely, working in the garden, participating in clubs, attending the theatre, going to sports events, phoning friends, visiting family, doing volunteer work, helping out at election time, travelling and entertaining. Increased age accompanied decreased participation in each activity. Refer to Table 13.

Ninety-four percent (n=790) of the total sample reported barriers which they claimed kept them from participating to the extent they desired. The barriers cited differed across age groups. Table 14 shows that the most frequent barriers reported by the respondents in the 85+ age were, in order of prevalence, health, distance, absence of companions, absence of transportation and feeling of being too old. The most prevalent barriers cited by the respondents in the 62-74 age group were being too busy, health, expense, and distance.

The characteristics of the respondents who reported selected barriers were examined. (Refer to the report entitled: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and the Barriers to Their Participation for a complete description of these characteristics). Age figured as a significant discriminating factor in the citation of six barriers: health, being too busy, expense, transportation, being too old, and the absence of companions. As the respondents aged, they had a greater tendency to cite health, transportation, being too old, and the absence of companions as barriers, and less likely to report that being too busy and expense kept them from participating to the extent they desired. (Refer to Tables 15-20).

5. HEALTH STATUS

The relationship of age and health status is the focus of this section. In that health status is a multidimensional concept, it is being measured by seven variables including:

a) subjective rating of health
b) comparison of health with five years previous
c) extent to which health conditions stand in the way of doing things persons want to do
d) number and type of health conditions
e) number and type of interfering health conditions
f) mobility
g) use of assistive devices

All of the data presented is based on self-reports.

The respondents' subjective rating of health varied by age group. Table 21 shows that with increasing age, the respondents tended to rate their health lower. The group who considered their health to be good or excellent was made up of close to two-thirds (n=326) of the persons aged 62-74 and one-half (n=32) of the persons aged 85+. Among the respondents who defined their health as fair or poor, seven percent (n=37) were aged 62-74 and sixteen percent (n=10) were aged 85+.

Advancing age was accompanied by reports of a deterioration in health over a five year period. Table 22 illustrates that a deterioration in health was reported by 32% (n=64) of the 62-74 age group and 47% (n=30) of the 85+ group. An improvement in health, on the other hand, was reported twice as often by the respondents aged 62-74 (11%, n=53) as by the respondents aged 85+ (7%, n=5).

Despite the fact that the majority of respondents across age groups considered their health to be good or excellent, the majority of respondents in each age group reported that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities. The older respondents were more likely than the younger respondents to consider health an interfering factor. Table 23 reveals a fourteen percentage point difference (56%, n=284 of the 62-74 age group compared to 70%, n=44 of the 85+ age group) in the number of respondents who reported health as an interfering factor.

The respondents' health conditions were documented. All respondents were read a list of 31 conditions and were asked to indicate if a physician had ever told them they had the condition. The conditions included arthritis, heart trouble, cancer, dizziness, diabetes, etc. The number of health conditions reported ranged from zero through 18 with a mean of 3.5. Seven percent (n=63) of the respondents reported no conditions, 29% (n=246) reported one to two conditions; thirty percent (n=253) identified three to four conditions; seventeen percent (n=143) reported five to six conditions and sixteen percent (n=138) reported seven or more conditions. No significant differences across age groups were found in the number of reported conditions.

The mean number of conditions reported to interfere with day to day activities was 1.5. Twenty-nine percent (n=247) of the respondents reported no interfering conditions; nineteen percent (n=162) reported one interfering condition, 26% (n=216) reported two to three interfering conditions and 26% (n=218) reported four or more interfering conditions. The number of interfering conditions reported did not differ significantly across age groups.

The ability of the respondents to walk around the average block was the principal measure of mobility in this survey. Ninety percent (n=762) of the persons interviewed said they were able to walk the block. However, differences were found among age groups such that with advancing age the ability to walk around the block decreased. The respondents able to walk around the block included 94% (n=473) of those aged 62-74 compared to 69% (n=44) of those aged 85+. Refer to Table 24.

A small proportion of the respondents reported using assistive devices. The most frequently used devices were canes (14%, n=115) crutches, (3%, n=16) and walkers (3%, n=15). Two percent (n=11) of the respondents used wheelchairs. The use of canes differed across age groups such that with increasing age canes were more likely to be used. Canes were used by eight percent (n=41) of the 62-74 age group and 38% (n=24) of the 85+ group. See Table 25.

6. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Visits to family doctors and specialists and hospitalizations were the basis for assessing the respondents' use of the health care system. Just as differences were found across age groups in the health status of the respondents, differences across age groups were evident in the use of the health care system. The significant differences were found in relation to visits with family doctors and hospitalizations. Visits to specialists did not differ by age.

During the year prior to being interviewed the proportion of respondents who had been seen by their family doctor ranged from a low of 92% (n=458) of the 62-74 age group to a high of 96% (n=59) of the 85+ group. Table 26 illustrates that four or more visits to family doctors were made by 58% (n=284) of the respondents aged 62 to 74 compared to 70% (n=42) of the respondents aged 85+.

Increasing age was also associated with a greater likelihood of being hospitalized. Table 27 shows that hospitalizations were more frequent among the 85+ group (25%, n=16) than the group aged 62 to 74 (17%, n=86). It is noteworthy that the respondents in the 85+ age group spent a longer period of time in the hospital than the younger respondents. Hospitalizations of eight or more days were common to fourteen percent (n=9) of the respondents aged 85+ compared to ten percent (n=50) of the persons aged 62 to 74. No significant differences across age groups were found in the number of hospital admissions.

7. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

The respondents' ability to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items from the OARS instrumental and physical activity of daily living (ADLS) scales. These scales are commonly employed to assess the older persons' capability of performing ADLS. In using the scales nine ADLS are measured. They include using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. The respondents who indicated difficulty with or an inability to carry out the activities were considered to have disabilities.

For each of the nine ADLS assessed, increasing age was found to be associated with a greater likelihood of having a disability. Table 28 illustrates that irrespective of age the most frequent disabilities reported related to housework and shopping. In the 85+ group over fifteen percent of the respondents had disabilities associated with using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing housework, handling money, and bathing.

The number of disabilities reported increased as the respondents age increased. Table 29 shows that fully 78% (n=391) of the respondents aged 62-74 had no disabilities. This figure corresponds to 28% (n=18) of the respondents aged 85+. Three or more disabilities were reported by six percent (n=28) of the 62 to 74 age group and 28% (n=18) of the 85+ group.

In view of the number of disabilities reported, particularly by the older respondents it was not unexpected to find that a large number of respondents received assistance with day to day activities. The receipt of assistance with 22 activities was assessed. Included were activities in the home such as housework, meal preparation and laundry, activities outside of the home like yardwork, shopping, and banking and personal care activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.

Table 30 illustrates that with age, the respondents had a greater likelihood of receiving assistance. Seventy-nine percent (n=50) of the respondents aged 85+ received assistance compared to 39% (n=197) of the respondents aged 62-74. The older respondents also received a greater quantity of assistance than the younger respondents. Six percent (n=30) of the persons aged 62 to 74 received help with five or more activities in comparison to 39% (n=25) of the 85+ group.

The activities with which assistance was received are listed on Table 31. Irrespective of the activity, increasing age accompanied greater likelihood of receiving assistance. Over one-third of the respondents in the 85+ age group received assistance with yardwork (62%, n=31), heavy housework (52%, n=32), shopping (48%, n=30), and laundry (42%, n=26). At least one-quarter of the 85+ group had help with light housework (32%, n=20), house repairs (30%, n=16), banking (26%, n=16), and cutting toenails (25%, n=16). The respondents aged 62 to 74 received most help with yardwork (25%, n=112), heavy housework (19%, n=96) and house repairs (13%, n=59).

8. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

The sources of assistance used by the respondents were recorded and significant differences were found across age groups. Table 32 illustrates that children provided the largest proportion of assistance to both the respondents in the 62 to 74 age group and the respondents in the 75 to 84 group. In contrast, the respondents in the 85+ group received the largest proportion of assistance from family other than children or spouses.

Although only a minimal amount (three percent or less) of all assistance came from community agencies, the most likely users of these agencies were the oldest respondents. Community agencies were used by two percent (n=8) of the persons aged 62 to 74, three percent (n=8) of the respondents 75 to 84 and eight percent (n=5) of persons in the 85+ age group.

Information was gathered on the use of five particular agencies, namely, Visting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. The likelihood of using these agencies increased as the respondents aged. During the year prior to being interviewed, at least one agency was used by five percent (n=24) of the respondents aged 62 to 74, sixteen percent (n=43) of the persons between the age of 75 and 84 and fully 25% (n=16) of the 85+ group.

The agencies were not used with equal frequency. The agency used by the largest number of respondents was Visiting Nurses followed by Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels and Friendly Visiting. As the respondents aged, they were more likely to use Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers and Meals on Wheels. Table 33 shows that these agencies were used by a minimum of four times more respondents in the 85+ age group than the respondents in the 62 to 74 group.

9. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked if they could use any or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance with the 22 day to day activities discussed above. It is noteworthy that the number of respondents who indicated additional requests did not differ significantly by age. Requests came from 24% (n=122) of the respondents aged 62 to 74, 26% (n=72) of the respondents aged 65 to 74 and eighteen percent (n=11) of the 85+ group.

The type of additional assistance requested by the respondents is indicated on Table 34. The only statistically significant difference across age groups was found in relation to meal preparation. With advancing age, requests for additional assistance increased. Requests came from one percent (n=7) of the respondents aged 62 to 74 and seven percent (n=4) of the persons aged 85+. The significance of this relationship should be considered with caution in light of the small number of respondents who made these requests.

Although the requests for additional assistance with the other activities did not differ significantly across age groups, those made by the 85+ group are worthy of note. The percentage of respondents aged 85+ who requested additional assistance ranged from a low of zero for activities including climbing stairs, mobility at home, mending, paying bills, financial assistance, dressing and taking medication to a high of ten percent (n=6) for light housework. The most prevalent requests for additional assistance by this group pertained to yardwork (8%, n=4), meal preparation (7%, n=4), heavy housework (5%, n=3), and cutting toenails (5%, n=3).

Most of the respondents between the ages of 62 and 74 who requested additional assistance wanted help with activities in the home, specifically, with heavy housework (11%, n=56), house repairs (8%, n=37), and light housework (6%, n=31). Some requests for additional assistance pertained to activities outside of the home such as yardwork (8%, n=35).

10. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons who reside in their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may be faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their impending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them. The question was posed as such..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements:

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying home with community services to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereinafter supportive housing arrangement)

The interest expressed by the respondents in each housing option is illustrated on Table 35. Some interesting differences were found across age groups. The most popular housing option indicated by the respondents in both the 62 to 74 and the 75 to 84 age group was moving into a supportive housing arrangement. In contrast, the respondents aged 85+ expressed most interest (62%) in staying home with the assistance of community services.

When each option was examined on its own, age discriminated among groups in only one instance, specifically, the interest in moving in with members of the family. As the respondents aged, their interest in this option increased. Interest was voiced by fifteen percent (n=68) of the 62 to 74 age group compared to 33% (n=17) of the 85+ group.

11. TRANSPORTATION

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated with those modes were delineated in the survey. This section concentrates on the relationship between age and transportation use.

Tables 36, 37, and 38 show that when going shopping, to medical appointments and to social occasions the respondents tended to travel by the same mode of transportation. It is significant to note that the largest proportion (a minimum of 39%) of the respondents aged 85+ were driven by relatives other than spouses to all activities. The most significant proportion (a minimum of 30%) of the respondents in the younger age groups drove themselves to the activities.

A number of distinct patterns were discerned in the use of transportation across age groups. With advancing age, the respondents were more likely to walk to the activities, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouse, and more likely to be driven by relatives.

Nine percent (n=76) of the respondents indicated that transportation to these activities was a problem for them. However, no statistically significant differences across age groups were found in the number of persons reporting these problems. As well, the particular transportation problems cited did not differ significantly across age groups. For a discussion of the problems cited, refer to the report entitled Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.

Separate questions were devoted to the respondents' general use of public transportation and taxis. Fifty percent (n=423) of the total sample reported using public transportation and 32% (n=27) used taxis. No statistically significant differences across age groups were found in the use of either mode. Furthermore, the requirements for assistance in using these modes did not vary by age.

Information was gathered on the respondents' desires for additional assistance with transportation. The respondents were asked: "If you could get further assistance with transportation, would you be interested in having the assistance?" Close to one-fifth (19%, n=155) of the respondents answered in the affirmative and indicated the type of assistance they wanted. Thirty-five percent (n=52) wanted the assistance of an accompany individual when travelling by public or private transportation. Thirty-five percent (n=54) wanted a transportation service that would pick them up at home. A further 31% (n=45) expressed a desire for financial assistance with taxis. Age did not discriminate among groups in the type of assistance requested.

Eleven percent (n=92) of the total sample indicated that their residence was too far from transportation. The respondents making this claim did not differ by age.

Close to one-third (n=258) of the respondents reported that should additional income be available to them, they would spend it on transportation. This attitude was more common among the younger respondents than among those who were older. Table 39 shows that the respondents who stated an interest in allocating additional income on transportation included 37% (n=183) of the 62 to 74 age group, 25% (n=66) of the 75 to 84 age group and fifteen percent (n=9) of the group aged 85+.

12. CONCLUSION

This report has concentrated on the special characteristics of three groups of persons interviewed during the USCO survey: persons between the ages of 62 and 74, persons aged 75 to 84 and persons aged 85+. The primary concern of this paper has been with the respondents aged 85+. The results of the data analysis revealed that the respondents in each age group were distinguishable by their demographic characteristics, health status, type of disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, housing preferences and use of transportation.

The respondents aged 85+ had well defined characteristics:

- They made up seven percent of the sample. In 1982 within the Province of Ontario persons aged 85+ numbered nine percent of the population.
- Geographically, they were more highly concentrated in the rural areas than in the five urban communities. (One must be aware of the fact that the response rate was higher in the rural areas (70%) than in the remaining communities).
- They were likely to be widowed.
- Their income was lower than the income of the respondents in the other age groups; 54% of the respondents aged 85+ had monthly incomes below $600.
- They had fewer years of formal education than the remaining respondents; 56% had less than nine years of schooling.
- They were unlikely to be employed.
- They were the most likely of the three groups to reside in apartments, to rent their housing and to live alone.
- They visited family and friends least frequently, and they had phone contact with friends least frequently.
- They participated in the fewest number of recreational activities.

- They were the least likely of the three groups to work in the garden, participate in clubs, attend the theatre, go to sports events, phone friends, visit family, visit friends, participate in sports, play cards, do volunteer work, help out at election time, travel and entertain.

- They were most likely to cite the following barriers to their recreational participation: health, transportation, absence of companions, and feeling of being too old.

- They perceived their health to be poorer than the respondents in the other age groups.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to report a deterioriation in health over a five year period.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to report that their health interfered with their ability to carry out day to day activities.

- Their mobility was more highly restricted than those in the other groups.

- They were seen more frequently by family physicians than the other respondents.

- They had a greater likelihood of being hospitalized, and once hospitalized they remained in the hospital for a longer period of time.

- They were more likely than the other respondents to report difficulty with or an inability to use the telephone, shop, prepare meals, do heavy housework, handle money, dress, take care of their own appearance, get in and out of bed and bathe.

- They reported a greater number of disabilities related to ADLS than the respondents in the other groups.

- They were more likely to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities and they received a greater quantity of assistance.

- They received the largest proportion of assistance from family other than children or spouses.

- They were the most likely of the three groups to receive the assistance of community agencies.

- They were more likely than the other respondents to voice requests for additional assistance with meal preparation.

- They expressed most interest in staying at home with the assistance of community services should they be unable to care for their own needs.

- When going shopping, to medical appointments and to social occasions they were more likely to walk, less likely to drive themselves, less likely to be driven by their spouses and more likely to be driven by relatives than the other respondents.

The findings presented above reveal that the persons aged 85+ in the sample were characterized by disproportionate difficulty in carrying out day to day activities, disproportionate receipt of assistance and disproportionate reliance on other individuals for help. The findings highlight the capability of these individuals in either meeting their own requirements or arranging to have their requirements for assistance met. It is noteworthy that the respondents in the 85+ age group were the least likely of all respondents to voice requests for additional assistance.

Despite the fact that the vast majority of respondents in the oldest age group requested no additional assistance, eighteen percent did request assistance. Most of the requests made were for assistance with household tasks. Few requests pertained to assistance with personal care. Judging from these requests, the largest proportion of persons aged 85+ are not in immediate jeopardy of losing their ability to remain within their own homes. The persons at highest risk are those who have requests that remain unfulfilled for lengthy periods of time, those who become unable to arrange for adequate supportive assistance, those whose income does not allow them to purchase extra services should they be required and those whose health deterioriates to the point of requiring more intensive medical care.

With the aging of Ontario's population, the 85+ group will grow and their requirements for assistance will increase. If these individuals are to remain in the community, they require close monitoring. Planning for their service needs demands a continuing and a systematic collection of demographic and disability information. This information is not optional, but essential to the work carried out by persons responsible for public policy, service agency personnel and clinicians working with elderly persons.

TABLE 1: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY AREA (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

AREA	AGE GROUP							
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+		TOTAL*	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Cookstown/Athens/ Bruce Mines	(93)	55	(56)	33	(19)	12	(168)	100
Brockville	(30)	63	(15)	31	(3)	6	(48)	100
Penetanguishene	(55)	55	(38)	38	(7)	7	(100)	100
Sault Ste. Marie	(67)	61	(37)	34	(6)	5	(110)	100
Windsor	(90)	59	(52)	34	(11)	7	(153)	100
Toronto	(168)	64	(78)	30	(18)	6	(264)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 2: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MARITAL STATUS	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Single	(38)	8	(17)	5	(5)	8
Married	(333)	66	(125)	46	(15)	24
Widowed	(105)	21	(126)	46	(43)	68
Divorced/ Separated	(26)	5	(7)	3	(0)	0
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(275)	100	(63)	100

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 3: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY MONTHLY INCOME
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-$599	(84)	18	(103)	40	(29)	54
$600-$799	(63)	13	(44)	17	(9)	17
$800-$999	(95)	20	(46)	18	(6)	11
$1,000+	(230)	49	(66)	25	(10)	18
TOTAL*	(472)	100	(259)	100	(54)	100

Chi Square = 77.14 $P < .01$

*61 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

YEARS OF FORMAL EDUCATION	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0 - 8	(180)	37	(142)	52	(35)	56
9 - 12	(213)	44	(90)	33	(20)	31
13+	(93)	19	(40)	15	(8)	13
TOTAL*	(486)	100	(272)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 20.41 $P < .01$

*25 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Employed	(57)	11	(14)	5	(2)	3
Not Employed	(446)	89	(262)	95	(61)	97
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

* 4 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(380)	77	(180)	66	(44)	70
Apartment	(114)	23	(93)	34	(19)	30
TOTAL*	(494)	100	(273)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 11.01 $P < .01$

*16 Missing Observations

TABLE 7: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING OWNERSHIP (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING OWNERSHIP	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own	(368)	73	(165)	60	(34)	53
Rent	(134)	27	(111)	40	(30)	47
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 45.95 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 8: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVE ALONE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

LIVING SITUATION	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(113)	23	(115)	42	(24)	38
Lives With Others	(390)	77	(161)	58	(40)	62
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 33.26 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 9: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY VISIT FAMILY MEMBERS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FAMILY	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(346)	69	(170)	63	(29)	48
Less Than Once Per Month	(154)	31	(98)	37	(31)	52
TOTAL*	(500)	100	(268)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 11.37 $P < .01$

*18 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT WITH FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACT	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(357)	72	(174)	64	(32)	53
One To Three Times Per Month	(80)	16	(47)	17	(10)	16
Less Than Once Per Month	(62)	12	(52)	19	(19)	31
TOTAL*	(499)	100	(273)	100	(61)	100

Chi Square = 18.32 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF VISITS TO FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(363)	73	(173)	63	(21)	35
Less Than Once Per Month	(138)	27	(100)	37	(39)	65
TOTAL*	(501)	100	(273)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 36.02 $P < .01$

*12 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
1 - 10	(107)	21	(90)	33	(34)	52
11 - 12	(104)	20	(60)	22	(14)	22
13 - 14	(114)	23	(77)	28	(8)	13
15+	(178)	36	(49)	17	(8)	13
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 56.64 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 13: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES BY AGE GROUP

ACTIVITY	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N = 503		N = 276		N = 64	
Gardening	(317)	63	(136)	50	(25)	39
Participating In Clubs	(217)	44	(92)	34	(18)	29
Attending The Theatre	(212)	42	(73)	27	(7)	11
Going To Sports Events	(151)	30	(47)	17	(7)	11
Phoning Friends	(415)	83	(225)	82	(45)	70
Visiting Family	(457)	91	(232)	86	(46)	74
Visiting Friends	(418)	83	(209)	76	(35)	56
Participating In Sports	(116)	23	(36)	13	(1)	2
Playing Cards	(344)	69	(169)	62	(28)	44
Doing Volunteer Work	(155)	31	(62)	23	(10)	16
Helping Out At Election Time	(67)	14	(20)	7	(5)	8
Travelling	(351)	70	(157)	57	(21)	33
Entertaining	(324)	65	(154)	56	(48)	30

[1]Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 14: BARRIERS IDENTIFIED TO PARTICIPATION (PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP		
	62 - 74 N = 503	75 - 84 N = 276	85+ N = 64
Respondents' Health Problems	18%	33%	36%
Respondents Busy	19%	8%	2%
Too Expensive	17%	10%	6%
Distance	8%	6%	9%
No Companions	5%	9%	9%
No Transportation	4%	6%	8%
Others Busy	5%	4%	4%
Lazy	4%	5%	1%
Family Has Health Problems	5%	2%	2%
No Opportunities Available	3%	4%	2%
Not Sure How To Go About It	2%	2%	1%
Feeling Of Being Too Old	1%	2%	8%
Bad Weather	1%	1%	1%
Fearful	1%	1%	1%
Don't Know	1%	1%	1%
Other	5%	6%	9%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 15: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED HEALTH AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Health As a Barrier	(284)	57	(127)	46	(23)	36
Did Cite Health As a Barrier	(211)	43	(147)	54	(41)	64
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 26.47 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 16: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Transportation As Barrier	(430)	87	(218)	80	(49)	77
Did Cite Transportation As Barrier	(65)	13	(56)	20	(15)	23
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 16.70 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 17: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO OLD" AS A BARRIER
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Being Too Old	(482)	97	(252)	92	(50)	78
Did Cite Being Too Old	(13)	3	(22)	8	(14)	22
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 48.15 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 18: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED THE ABSENCE OF COMPANIONS AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite No Companions	(380)	77	(199)	73	(42)	66
Did Cite No Companions	(115)	23	(75)	27	(22)	34
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 11.32 $P < .05$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 19: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO BUSY" AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Being Too Busy	(292)	59	(213)	78	(59)	92
Did Cite Being Too Busy	(203)	41	(61)	22	(5)	8
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 49.87 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 20: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED EXPENSE AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Expense As a Barrier	(242)	49	(186)	68	(54)	84
Did Cite Expense As a Barrier	(253)	51	(88)	32	(10)	16
TOTAL*	(495)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 48.44 $P < .01$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 21: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR SUBJECTIVE RATING OF HEALTH (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

RATING	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Excellent	(87)	17	(43)	15	(6)	10
Good	(239)	48	(117)	43	(26)	41
Fair	(140)	28	(90)	32	(21)	33
Poor	(37)	7	(26)	10	(10)	16
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .073 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 22: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY A COMPARISON OF THEIR PRESENT HEALTH WITH FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMPARISON OF HEALTH	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Better	(53)	11	(26)	10	(5)	7
About The Same	(286)	57	(155)	56	(29)	46
Worse	(164)	32	(95)	34	(30)	47
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .06 $P < .05$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 23: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY AN EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS ACTIVITIES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(219)	44	(92)	34	(19)	30
A Little	(195)	39	(120)	43	(24)	38
A Great Deal	(89)	17	(64)	23	(20)	32
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .11 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 24: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR ABILITY TO WALK AROUND THE AVERAGE BLOCK (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ABILITY TO WALK AROUND AVERAGE BLOCK	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Able	(473)	94	(245)	88	(44)	69
Unable	(29)	6	(31)	12	(20)	31
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Chi Square = 44.26 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 25: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR USE OF CANES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

USE OF CANES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Use Canes	(461)	92	(226)	88	(39)	38
Used Canes	(41)	8	(49)	12	(24)	62
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(275)	100	(63)	100

Chi Square = 53.41 $P < .01$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 26: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF TIMES THEY HAD BEEN SEEN BY THEIR FAMILY DOCTOR OVER A YEAR'S PERIOD (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF TIMES FAMILY DOCTOR WAS SEEN	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(42)	8	(18)	6	(3)	4
1	(67)	13	(26)	9	(9)	14
2-3	(107)	21	(52)	19	(8)	12
4+	(284)	58	(176)	66	(42)	70
TOTAL*	(500)	100	(272)	100	(62)	100

*12 Missing Observations

TABLE 27: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF DAYS THEY SPENT IN THE HOSPITAL (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT IN HOSPITAL	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(416)	83	(216)	79	(48)	75
1-7	(36)	7	(23)	8	(7)	11
8+	(50)	10	(35)	13	(9)	14
TOTAL*	(502)	100	(274)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .06 $P < .05$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 28: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF DISABILITIES* REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Use Telephone	(19)	4	(28)	10	(11)	17
Shopping	(45)	9	(57)	21	(27)	44
Prepare Meals	(20)	4	(33)	12	(10)	16
Heavy Housework	(82)	16	(71)	26	(34)	54
Handle Money	(19)	4	(24)	9	(13)	21
Dress	(3)	1	(7)	3	(4)	6
Take Care Of Appearance	(2)	1	(8)	3	(4)	6
Get In And Out Of Bed	(2)	1	(7)	3	(4)	6
Bath	(18)	4	(35)	13	(19)	30

*Disability is here defined as difficulty in carrying out the activity or the inability to do the activity.

TABLE 29: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF DISABILITIES REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DISABILITIES	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(391)	78	(173)	63	(18)	28
1-2	(84)	16	(65)	24	(28)	44
3+	(28)	6	(38)	13	(18)	28
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(64)	100

Tau = .25 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 30: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(306)	61	(111)	40	(13)	21
1	(85)	17	(60)	22	(8)	13
2-4	(82)	16	(68)	25	(17)	27
5+	(30)	6	(37)	13	(25)	39
TOTAL*	(503)	100	(276)	100	(63)	100

Tau = .26 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 31: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY RECEIVED ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Light Housework	(39)	8	(39)	14	(20)	32
Heavy Housework	(96)	19	(85)	31	(32)	52
Making a Cup of Tea	(5)	1	(8)	3	(6)	10
Meal Preparation	(9)	2	(17)	6	(13)	21
Laundry	(22)	4	(36)	13	(26)	42
House Repairs	(59)	13	(34)	13	(16)	30
Climbing Stairs	(8)	2	(9)	3	(6)	10
Mobility at Home	(4)	1	(2)	1	(3)	5
Using the Telephone	(6)	1	(8)	3	(6)	10
Mending	(8)	2	(8)	3	(10)	16
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(112)	25	(91)	37	(31)	62
Shopping	(35)	7	(67)	24	(30)	48
Going Out in Good Weather	(7)	1	(8)	3	(7)	12
Going Out in Bad Weather	(21)	4	(25)	9	(13)	23
Banking	(15)	3	(34)	12	(16)	26
Paying Bills	(12)	2	(29)	11	(14)	23
Financial Assistance	(6)	1	(10)	4	(5)	8
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(4)	1	(3)	1	(3)	5
Bathing	(6)	1	(7)	3	(10)	16
Dressing	(4)	1	(2)	1	(3)	5
Cutting Toenails	(27)	5	(34)	12	(16)	25
Taking Medication	(5)	1	(7)	3	(5)	8

TABLE 32: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES ACROSS AGE GROUPS

SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE	AGE GROUP		
	62 - 74	75 - 84	85+
Daughter	13%	17%	22%
Son	13%	12%	10%
Other Family	14%	22%	33%
Spouse	23%	15%	8%
Neighbour/Friend	10%	10%	6%
Community Agency	2%	2%	3%
Paid Help	25%	21%	16%
Other	0%	1%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 33: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS WHO USED SPECIFIC COMMUNITY AGENCIES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMMUNITY AGENCY	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Visiting Nurse	(21)	4	(34)	12	(11)	17
Red Cross Homemaker	(9)	2	(14)	5	(9)	14
Meals On Wheels	(2)	1	(6)	2	(3)	5

TABLE 34: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THE ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH THEY MADE REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(31)	6	(16)	6	(6)	10
Heavy Housework	(56)	11	(36)	13	(3)	5
Making a Cup of Tea	(2)	1	(2)	1	(1)	2
Meal Preparation	(7)	1	(10)	4	(4)	7
Laundry	(6)	1	(7)	3	(1)	2
House Repairs	(37)	8	(21)	8	(2)	4
Climbing Stairs	(8)	2	(2)	1	(0)	0
Mobility at Home	(2)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0
Using the Telephone	(1)	1	(2)	1	(2)	3
Mending	(3)	1	(5)	2	(0)	0
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(35)	8	(31)	13	(4)	8
Shopping	(14)	3	(12)	4	(1)	2
Going Out in Good Weather	(2)	1	(0)	0	(1)	2
Going Out in Bad Weather	(10)	2	(7)	3	(2)	4
Banking	(2)	1	(6)	2	(1)	2
Paying Bills	(3)	1	(2)	1	(0)	0
Financial Assistance	(6)	1	(1)	1	(0)	0
PERSONAL						
Getting In and Out of Bed	(0)	0	(1)	1	(2)	3
Bathing	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	2
Dressing	(1)	1	(1)	1	(0)	0
Cutting Toenails	(19)	4	(18)	7	(3)	5
Taking Medication	(1)	1	(0)	0	(0)	0

TABLE 35: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BY AGE GROUP

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
*Moving In With Family[1]	(68)	15	(48)	19	(17)	33
Moving In With Friends[2]	(13)	3	(9)	3	(2)	4
Staying Home With Community Services To Assist[3]	(283)	62	(150)	59	(34)	62
Staying Home With Family/Friends To Assist[4]	(246)	52	(146)	56	(31)	56
Supportive Housing Arrangement[5]	(342)	71	(176)	67	(30)	53

*Chi Square = 11.32 $P < .01$

[1] 82 Missing Observations
[2] 52 Missing Observations
[3] 81 Missing Observations
[4] 57 Missing Observations
[5] 47 Missing Observations

TABLE 36: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SHOPPING (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(79)	16	(67)	26	(18)	34
Drive Self	(254)	52	(88)	34	(4)	8
Driven By Spouse	(66)	14	(23)	9	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(34)	7	(46)	18	(20)	39
Driven By Friends	(7)	1	(7)	2	(4)	8
Taxi	(8)	2	(6)	2	(2)	4
Public Transportation	(40)	8	(22)	8	(3)	5
Community Agency	(0)	0	(3)	1	(1)	2
TOTAL*	(488)	100	(262)	100	(52)	100

* 44 Missing Observations

TABLE 37: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(50)	10	(45)	17	(14)	24
Drive Self	(247)	50	(79)	30	(3)	5
Driven By Spouse	(61)	12	(24)	9	(1)	2
Driven By Relatives	(37)	8	(52)	20	(23)	40
Driven By Friends	(7)	1	(10)	4	(3)	5
Taxi	(21)	4	(9)	3	(6)	11
Public Transportation	(66)	13	(41)	15	(3)	5
Community Agency	(2)	2	(7)	2	(4)	8
TOTAL*	(491)	100	(267)	100	(57)	100

* 31 Missing Observations

TABLE 38: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	Age Group					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(34)	8	(41)	18	(11)	31
Drive Self	(247)	56	(77)	34	(2)	6
Driven By Spouse	(61)	14	(20)	8	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(27)	6	(38)	17	(15)	42
Driven By Friends	(21)	5	(27)	12	(4)	11
Taxi	(6)	1	(3)	1	(2)	5
Public Transportation	(49)	10	(22)	9	(2)	5
Community Agency	(0)	0	(2)	1	(0)	0
TOTAL*	(445)	100	(230)	100	(36)	100

* 135 Missing Observations

TABLE 39: AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY WOULD SPEND ADDITIONAL INCOME ON TRANSPORTATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	AGE GROUP					
	62 - 74		75 - 84		85+	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Would Spend The Income	(183)	37	(66)	25	(9)	15
Would Not Spend The Income	(305)	63	(202)	75	(51)	85
TOTAL*	(488)	100	(268)	100	(60)	100

Chi Square = 21.53 $P < .01$

*30 Missing Observations

APPENDIX

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The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

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5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.
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APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Chi Square: a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.

Cleaning: a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).

Coding: a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.

Community Agency/ Service: all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.

Cross Tabulations: a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.

Data: the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.

Dependent Variable: the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.

Disability: the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)

Frail: reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies: descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.

Friendly Visiting: a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.

G.I.S.: Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.

GAINS-A: Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.

Health Care System: family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.

Home Care: a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Independent Variables: the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.

Institutional Settings: nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.

Instrument: the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.

Interfering Health Conditions: health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.

Interview Schedule: the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity: an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.

Mean ($\bar{X}$): the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.

Missing Observations: instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.

Multiple Response: a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.

OARS ADL Scale: specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).

Old Age Security Data Base: a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension and the Spouse's Allowance.

Paid Help: distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.

Personal Care Activities: activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.

Pretest: the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married: individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.

Random Sample: a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.

Represenativeness: the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.

S.D.: a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.

SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.

Sample: part of the population at large, selected for study.

Sample Frame: the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.

Significant Differences: determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.

Single: persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.

Social Contacts: visits with friends and family or in person.

Socio-Economic: characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.

Stratified Sample: a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements: a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.

Tau: Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.

Variable: refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.

Volunteer: a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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